

0. BAD DECISIONS MAKE BAD LAW - Story Preface

1. FREEDOM DAY

2. EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION LIMITATIONS

3. SLAVERY IS WRONG

4. THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

5. THE SOUTH REJOINS THE UNION

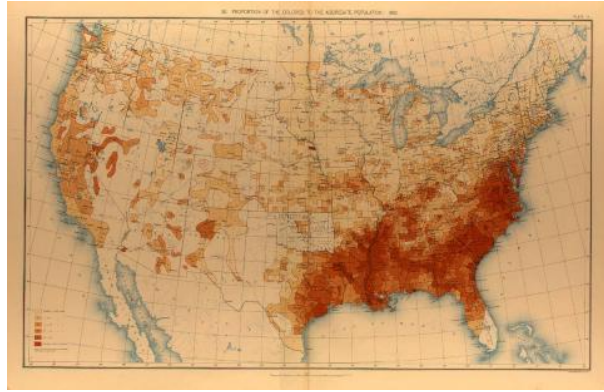
6. BAD DECISIONS MAKE BAD LAW

7. WHAT WERE JIM CROW LAWS?

8. FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

9. THE INFAMOUS LAWS

10. A SHAMEFUL LEGACY



During Reconstruction of the South, African-Americans began to migrate to other parts of the country. This 1890 map— "Statistical Atlas of the United States Based on the Results of the Eleventh Census. Plate 11"—is part of the 1890 census. According to the map's title, it shows "Proportion of the Colored to the Aggregate Population 1890." The original lithograph was published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, in Washington, during 1898. Click on the image for a better view. Online, Library of Congress.

As the South got back on its feet, former slaves and their descendants were in for eighty more years of oppression and humiliation. America was just beginning her own version of "Apartheid" (the Afrikaans word for "separateness").

Even as the United States integrated the South, it segregated black Americans. As the Union repatriated the South, the South subjugated blacks (with the blessing of the federal legal system).

How could American apartheid exist in light of the Bill of Rights? How could "legal" segregation occur when Congress had passed Constitutional Amendments to protect the former slaves and their descendants?

Did the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery forever, have no meaning?

Didn't the 14th Amendment guarantee due process to all people?

If the 15th Amendment (this is the original resolution) granted black men the right to vote, how could anyone ever suggest that American law had once created a system of apartheid?

Because ... America also had what came to be known as "Jim Crow" laws.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/BAD-DECISIONS-MAKE-BAD-LAW-Jim-Crow-Laws)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/BAD-DECISIONS-MAKE-BAD-LAW-Jim-Crow-Laws>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/BAD-DECISIONS-MAKE-BAD-LAW-Jim-Crow-Laws)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/BAD-DECISIONS-MAKE-BAD-LAW-Jim-Crow-Laws>



All God's Chillun's Got Wings!

All God's Chillun's Got Wings!

Soft-ground etching and aquatint, circa 1933, by Elizabeth White.

Image, courtesy Library of Congress

Quoted passage from the Library of Congress, [African-American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship](#)

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/All-God-s-Chillun-s-Got-Wings->

Mustered Out - Black Civil War Soldiers Come Home

Mustered Out by Alfred R. Waud



Little Rock, Arkansas, April 20, 1865

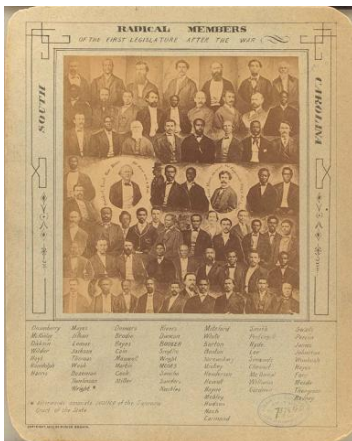
Drawing - Chinese white on green paper

Published in Harper's Weekly, May 19, 1866

Image, courtesy Library of Congress

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mustered-Out-Black-Civil-War-Soldiers-Come-Home>



First Black Legislators - South Carolina, 1878

Radical Members of the First Legislature after the War, South Carolina

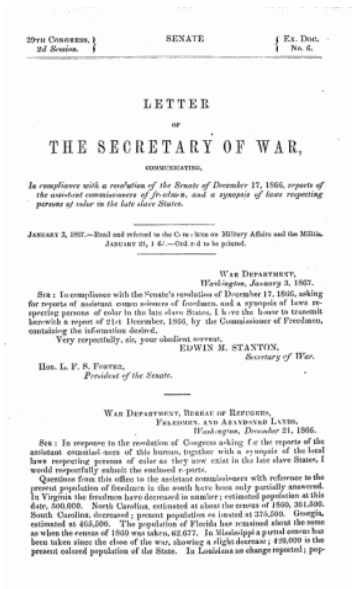
Photograph, 1878

Library of Congress, Reproduction Number LC-USZ62-28044 (5-11)

Quoted passage from African-American Odyssey, Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-Black-Legislators-South-Carolina-1878>



Post Civil War - Laws Relating to Freedmen

Laws in Relation to Freedmen, U.S. Sen. 39th Congress, 2nd Session, Senate Executive Doc. No. 6

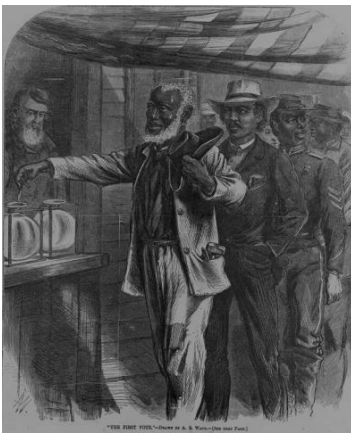
Washington: War Department, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1866-67

Pamphlet

Image, courtesy Library of Congress

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Post-Civil-War-Laws-Relating-to-Freedmen>



First Vote - Black Men in America

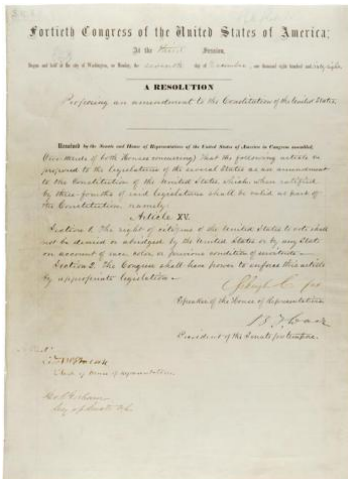
Alfred R. Waud

"The First Vote"

From Harper's Weekly, November 16, 1867

Image, Library of Congress

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-Vote-Black-Men-in-America>

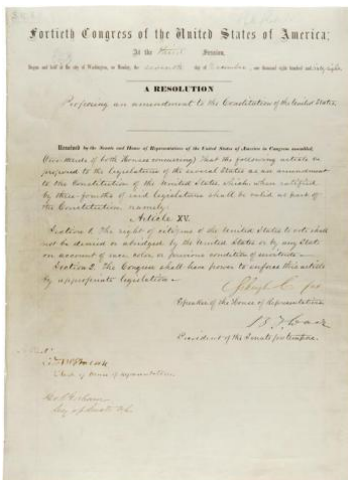


Fifteenth Amendment - Original Proposal

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fifteenth-Amendment-Original-Proposal>



U.S. Constitution - 15th Amendment

This image depicts the Congressional Resolution which led to passage of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Online via the U.S. National Archives. Public Domain.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/U.S.-Constitution-15th-Amendment>



Buffalo Soldiers - U.S. "Colored Troops"

Image, courtesy Library of Congress, Gladstone Collection.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Buffalo-Soldiers-U.S.-Colored-Troops->



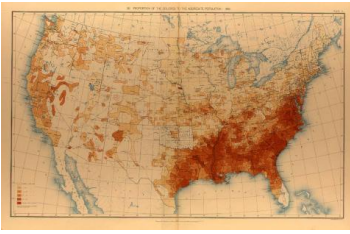
First Black Legislators - U.S. Congress, 1872

Image, Library of Congress.

Quoted passage from the Library of Congress' web site - African-American Odyssey.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-Black-Legislators-U.S.-Congress-1872>



BAD DECISIONS MAKE BAD LAW

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>